# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# CIVIL AVIATION
# LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:102
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2001
PURCHASING OF NEW AIRCRAFT BY IA AND AI
SURESH KODIKUNNIL;VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA

**Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey and surprise check on the over-aged passenger aircraft used in Indian Air Traffic;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of new aircraft purchased by both Indian Airlines and Air India during each of the last three years, along with the types of aircraft and name of companies from which these have been purchased; and

(d) the total funds allocated and disbursed for such purchase and the total annual expenditure incurred thereon?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION ( SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN )

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 012 DATED 26.11.2001

(a) and (b): The aircraft remain in operation so lond they are maintained in airworthy condition as per the maintenence procedures and approved by the Directorate General of civil Aviation (DGCA).However, there is an economic design life of each aircraft in terms of its usage after which the cost of maintenence beings to increase. As the age of an aircraft increases, more intensive and frequent checks are prescribed by the manufacturers and the DGCA. Regular surveillance and surprise checks of the aircraft of various airlines including their maintenance systems are conducted by the officers of DGCA to ensure compliance with the requirements laid sown by the DGCA and the manufacturers. As and when anyviolations of these requirements are observed strict action as per laid down rules and regulations is taken against those responsible. It is to be noted that so far none of the accidents have been attributed to the age of the aicraft by the various inquiry committees.

(c) No new aircraft has been purchased by Indian Airlines or Air India in the last three years. However, Indian Airlines have taken two A-300 in May/June 1998 from M/s General Electric Capital Aviation Services (GECAS), USA and two A-320 in April/May 2001 on dry lease from M/s ORIX, UK Further 4 more A-320 aircraft are in the process of being taken on dry lease from M/s ORIX, UK. Similarly, Air India have taken four A-301 aircraft on dry lease in 2000, of which two are from Singapore Airlines and two from M/s GECAS, USA. Further, Air India has plans to take two B-747-400 and three A-310-300 aircraft on dry lease.

In view of the disinvestment process, it was found desirable that the decision on capital investment and aircraft acquisition should be taken by the new management. However, as there is a delay in the process of disinvestment, Indian Airlines has been advised recently to formulate a specific proposal for axquisition of new aircraft for seeking Government approval.

(d) A token provision in the budget of Air India and Indian Airlines is made every year towards purchase of aircraft. As no aircraft was pruchased by the airlines, no amount has abeen sepnt for this purpose in the last three years. However, an amount of Rs.65.82 crores has abeen spent towards lease of aircraft by Indian Airlines since 1999-2000. Air India on the other hand, has incured and expenditure of Rs.26.86 crores towards the lease of aircraft during the last three years.